

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claims 5, 6, 11 and 12, and the Specification have been amended to indicate the use of the trademarks "Microsoft Internet Explorer" and "Netscape Navigator." Claims 5, 6, 8 and 9 were objected to due to informalities – these claims have been amended accordingly. Claims 1–12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hancock (US 6,785,718). Claims 2 and 7–9 have been canceled without prejudice, and Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite several features of the claimed invention. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, within the Specification at page 5, line 9 to page 6, line 15. Thus, Claims 1, 3–6 and 10–12 are pending.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for providing online shipment information to a freight forwarder and recites, as amended, "after receiving an electronic purchase order in EDI850 form issued by a customer, at a shipment management platform, returning an acknowledgment in EDI855 form to the customer via the Internet to acknowledge the receipt of the electronic purchase order and downloading EDI855-related information into a shipment information database; at a freight forwarder, receiving the EDI855-related information via the Internet; when delivery is ready, at the shipment management platform, preparing and downloading delivery-related information into the shipment information database; at the freight forwarder, receiving the delivery-related information via the Internet and printing the delivery-related information into a customs application document for submission; when shipment notification is ready, at the shipment management platform, preparing and sending shipment notification in EDI856 form to the customer via the Internet and downloading EDI856-related information into the shipment information database; and at the freight forwarder, receiving the EDI856-related information via the Internet and printing the EDI856-related information into an exportation application document for submission." Claim 10 is directed to an online shipment information server system for providing online shipment information to a freight forwarder and recites, *inter alia*, "a shipment management platform, which is used to prepare a set of shipment information, including EDI855-related information, delivery-related information, and EDI856-related information." Applicants respectfully submit that Hancock fails to teach or suggest all of the features recited by Claims 1 and 10.

Hancock discloses a system for interfacing with a shipping service. System 100 includes a network of "nodes," e.g., a source node 106, a customer node 104, a destination node 102, a customs house broker node 116, a logistics node 108 that acts as an information hub for system 100, as well as other nodes. Logistics node 108 generally administers the shipment of a product from source node 106 to destination node 102, and "forwards a copy of documentation necessary for customs clearance to the CHB node 116 ... such as bill of lading, invoices, shipment contents, etc." (Col. 15:50–54). *See, e.g., Col. 3:50 to Col. 4:44 and FIG. 1; Col. 15:49–65 and FIG. 8.* Hancock also discloses that one exemplary link 182 used to connect the nodes is the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). *See, e.g., Col. 5:38–53.* However, Hancock fails to teach or suggest all of the features recited by Claim 1, as amended.

At best, Hancock discloses a customer (node 104), a shipment management platform (logistics node 108), a freight forwarder (customs house broker node 116) and a protocol by which these entities may communicate (link 182 and EDI). Hancock simply fails to teach or suggest the specific information that is exchanged between these entities (e.g., "an electronic purchase order in EDI850 form," "an acknowledgement in EDI855 form," "EDI-related information," "deliver-related information," shipment notification in EDI856 form," "EDI856-related information") or the order in which it is exchanged (e.g., "after receiving an electronic purchase order...," "when delivery is ready...," "when shipment notification is ready..."), as recited by Claim 1, as amended. Consequently, Claim 1 is allowable over Hancock.

Hancock similarly fails to teach or suggest that his logistics node prepares a set of shipment information, including EDI855-related information, delivery-related information, and EDI856-related information, as recited by Claim 10. At best, Hancock teaches that EDI may be generally used as link 182 between nodes, including, presumably, logistics node 108 and the other nodes. Thus, Hancock fails to teach or suggest the preparation of specific, EDI and delivery related information at a shipment management server, as recited by Claim 10. Consequently, Claim 10 is allowable over Hancock.

Accordingly, Claims 1 and 10 are allowable over the cited references. Claims 3–6, depending from Claim 1, and Claims 11 and 12, depending from Claim 10, are also allowable, at least for the reasons discussed above.

Applicants respectfully request that this application now be passed to issue, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees and to credit any overpayments that may be required by this paper under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

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